

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney thanks Examiner Blau for his careful review of this patent application. Reconsideration of the preset application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the claims in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 18 – 20, 23 – 26, and 28 were pending in the application. Claim 25 has been amended and claims 24 and 28 have been canceled. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 18 – 20, 23, 25, and 26 will be pending in the application.

Allowed Subject Matter

In paragraph 6, the Office Action stated that claims 18-20 and 23 are allowed.

In paragraph 7, the Office Action stated that claims 25 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim, claim 24. Claim 26 remains dependent upon claim 25. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 25 and 26 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 24 And 28 Are No Longer Pending

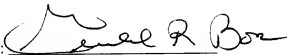
In paragraph 4, the Office Action rejected claims 24 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,695,937 to Stites, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,077,173 to Stites in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,33,187 to Schmidt. Claims 24 and 28 have been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the application is condition for allowance and it requested that the application proceed to issuance.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that claims 18 – 20, 23, 25, and 26 are in condition for allowance and that each point raised in the Official Action with regard to these claims has been fully addressed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn and that claims 18 – 20, 23, 25, and 26 be processed to issuance in accordance with Patent Office Business.

This response is being submitted with a Petition for Extension of Time for one month, with the authorization to debit Deposit Account No. 20-1507 for the appropriate fee. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please contact Jerre Boss at 404.885.3622.

Respectfully Submitted,

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